



Author Spotlight E. Lynn Harris

E. Lynn Harris was born in Flint, Michigan and raised, along with three sisters, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a degree in journalism. Harris was the school's first black yearbook editor, the first black male Razorbacks cheerleader, and the president of his fraternity.

For 13 years Harris sold computers for IBM, Hewlett-Packard, and AT&T while living in Dallas, Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. He finally quit his sales job to write his first novel, *Invisible Life*, and, failing to find a publisher, published it himself in 1991 selling it mostly at black-owned bookstores, beauty salons, and book clubs before he was "discovered" by Anchor Books. Anchor published *Invisible Life* as a trade paperback in 1994 and thus his career as an author was "officially" launched.

All of Harris's books have been bestsellers. Currently, there are over three million copies of his novels in print and Harris has won numerous accolades and prizes for his work.

In 1999, the University of Arkansas honored Harris with a Citation of Distinguished Alumni for outstanding professional achievement, and in October 2000, he was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. Over the past few years, he has also been named to Ebony's "Most Intriguing Blacks" list, Out Magazine's "Out 100" list, New York Magazine's "Gay Power 101" list, and Savoy's "100 Leaders and Heroes in Black America" list. Other honors have included the Sprague Todes Literary Award, the Harvey Milk Honorary Diploma and The Silas Hunt Award for Outstanding Achievement from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

In addition to his publishing pursuits, Harris has also completed a screenplay for a remake of the 1970's African American classic film "Sparkle" and was tapped by Fox Television to write the pilot of a new dramatic series. He made his Broadway debut in the fall of 2001, appearing as the narrator in a benefit performance of "Dreamgirls." He later returned to Broadway for one night in "Love Letters to America." A musical based on his novel *Not a Day Goes By* enjoyed a successful national tour in 2004.

Harris has been a visiting professor and Writer-In-Residence in the English department at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, his alma mater. An avid University of Arkansas Razorbacks fan, E. Lynn is a part-time Cheer Coach for the award winning Razorback Cheerleaders. He divides his time between Fayetteville, Arkansas, Atlanta, Georgia and Houston, Texas.

Visit E. Lynn Harris's website at www.elynnharris.com



Books by E. Lynn Harris

- I Say a Little Prayer, 2006
- What Becomes of the Brokenhearted : A Memoir, 2004
- A Love of My Own, 2003
- Any Way the Wind Blows, 2002
- Not a Day Goes By, 2001
- Abide with Me, 2000
- If This World Were Mine, 1998
- And This Too Shall Pass, 1997
- Just As I Am, 1995
- Invisible Life, 1994

If you like E. Lynn Harris's Books, Try Some of These

Briscoe, Connie – *P.G. County*

The wealthy black community of Prince George is the scene of impending social disaster when marital infidelity, interracial love affairs and other exposed secrets threaten to topple the rich.

Dickey, Eric Jerome – *Thieves' Paradise*

On the straight and narrow in L.A. after years in jail, Dante fights for an honest life against impossible odds when his old friends involve him in their scams and a dangerously needy woman catches his eye.

Ellis, Jamellah - *That Faith, That Trust, That Love*

Despite her seemingly perfect life with a job at a prestigious law firm and her engagement to a scion of Atlanta's black elite, Marley Shepherd finds herself struggling to deal with truths about her relationship and herself that begin to destroy her integrity. (Amherst Library)

Elmore, Ronn - *Mercy Mercy Me*

Unable to get over the death of his wife, psychotherapist Dwayne Gradison meets former actress and Christian Nina Jordan but finds he is unable to pursue his feelings for her, a situation that is tested by his subsequent relationship with a scandalous evangelistic performer.

Files, Lolita - *Tastes Like Chicken*

The only survivors of a devastating boating accident off the coast of Maine, Julia, Noah, and Kim struggle with their brush with death, their feelings of guilt, and their changed perspectives on their lives.

Joe, Yolanda - *My Fine Lady*

Talented young singer Imani is surrounded by men with their own interest in her career-- including her father, her boyfriend, and Orenthal Hopson, who believes that he can transform her from a hip- hop diva to a traditional jazz singer.

Lambright, Slim - *Justus Girls*

After the death of one member of their high school drill team, the Justus Girls reunite in supportive friendship that takes them through social and personal changes over the years.

Little, Benilde - *The Itch*

Abra's privileged life with high-powered stockbroker Cullen Dixon ends abruptly after his infidelity, and she flees to Hollywood, where she's a stranger to the singles scene, and gets no help from her friends.

Major, Marcus - *4 Guys and Trouble*

Four buddies living together in a typical bachelor style promised a dying frat brother they would take care of his sister, "Bunches", who grows into a young independent woman and challenges their objectivity.

McCann, Timmothy B. - *Emotions*

Sparks ignite when disappointed actress Joi Weston meets failed writer Michael Brockmier II, and then all hell breaks loose as guilt and the consequences of their infidelities threaten real love and security.

Monteilh, Marissa - *May December Souls*

Faced with the prospects of her fortieth birthday, tired of her dead-end job, and yearning for a more emotionally satisfying relationship than the one she has with her exciting but controlling boyfriend, Mariah Pijaux finds herself attracted to the charming but much younger Malik Tolliver.

Mosley, Walter - *Six Easy Pieces*

A collection of six interconnected Easy Rawlins short mysteries includes "Smoke," "Crimson Stain," "Silver Lining," "Lavender," "Gator Green," and "Untitled."

Price-Thompson, Tracy - *Chocolate Sangria*

Raised in a Brooklyn housing project, African-American Juanita Lucas has long been ostracized because of her light skin and green eyes, but when she and Scooter Morrison meet two Puerto Rican men, unexpected changes take place.

Whitfield, Van - *Guys in Suits*

Simon and Stuart are desperately searching for dates for their annual New Year's Eve vacation and unwittingly become involved with the same woman, ex-dancer-turned-stockbroker Evelyn "KitKat" Wilson, who embarks on a game of love and deception with the two unsuspecting friends.